2016 Medicare Parts A & B Premiums and Deductibles Announced

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the 2016 premiums and deductibles for the Medicare inpatient hospital (Part A) and physician and outpatient hospital services (Part B) programs.

Part B Premiums/Deductibles.
As the Social Security Administration previously announced, there will be no Social Security cost-of-living increase for 2016. As a result, by law, most people with Medicare Part B will be “held harmless” from any increase in premiums in 2016 and will pay the same monthly premium as last year, which is $104.90.

Beneficiaries not subject to the “hold harmless” provision will pay $121.80, as calculated reflecting the provisions of the Bipartisan Budget Act signed into law by President Obama. Medicare Part B beneficiaries not subject to the “hold-harmless” provision are those not collecting Social Security benefits, those who will enroll in Part B for the first time in 2016, dual-eligible beneficiaries who have their premiums paid by Medicaid, and beneficiaries who pay an additional income-related premium. These groups account for about 30% of the 52 million Americans expected to be enrolled in Medicare Part B in 2016.

“Our goal is to keep Medicare Part B premiums affordable. Thanks to the leadership of Congress and President Obama, the premiums for 52 million Americans enrolled in Medicare Part B will be either flat or substantially less than they otherwise would have been,” said CMS Acting Administrator Andy Slavitt. “Affordability for Medicare enrollees is a key goal of our work building a health care system that delivers better care and spends health care dollars more wisely.”

Because of slow growth in medical costs and inflation, Medicare Part B premiums were unchanged for the 2013, 2014, and 2015 calendar years. The “hold harmless” provision would have required the approximately 30% of beneficiaries not held harmless in 2016 to pay an estimated base monthly Part B premium of $159.30 in part to make up for lost contingency reserves, according to the 2015 Trustees Report. However, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 mitigated the Part B premium increase for these beneficiaries and states, which have programs that pay some or all of the premiums and cost-sharing for certain people who have Medicare and limited incomes. The CMS Office of the Actuary estimates that states will save $1.8 billion as a result of this premium mitigation.

CMS also announced that the annual deductible for all Part B beneficiaries will be $166 in 2016. Premiums for Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug plans already finalized are unaffected by this announcement. To get more information about state-by-state savings, visit the CMS website at https://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2015-Fact-sheets-items/2015-11-10.html.

Since 2007, beneficiaries with higher incomes have paid higher Part B monthly premiums. These income-related monthly adjustment amount (IRMAA) affect fewer than 5% of people with Medicare. Under the Part B section of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, high income beneficiaries will pay an additional amount. The IRMAA, additional amounts, and total Part B premiums for high income beneficiaries for 2016 are shown in 2016 Premiums and Deductibles, Continued on page 3.
National Museum of the Marine Corps
Temporarily Closed from January 4 to March 31, 2016

The National Museum of the Marine Corps is currently closed to make way for two new Marine Corps aircraft: A World War II SBD Dauntless dive bomber and a new tableau featuring a Vietnam-era Sikorsky UH-34D helicopter will be added to the Museum’s Leatherneck Gallery.

The temporary closure will ensure everyone’s safety as they complete the mission to build a Museum that represents every American who has earned the title, ‘Marine.’

60 Years of News...

This is the 60th issue of the Semper Fidelis Newsletter, formerly known as the Newsletter for Retired Marines. The February 1956 issue contained four pages. Here’s the introduction:

“This is the first issue of the NEWSLETTER FOR RETIRED MARINES. It will be mailed to you quarterly or as often as information warrants. The Commandant of the Marine Corps desires to maintain a closer contact with you and furnish you information that directly concerns you as a member of the Marine Corps on the retired list.

It is your NEWSLETTER and your ideas and cooperation will be appreciated. So feel free to send in your comments and suggestions regarding information you would like to appear in the NEWSLETTER, to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code: DNB).”

On page four, the article, “The Marine Corps Must Have Your Current Mailing Address,” still rings true today. It reads in part: “Regulations require that all Retired Marines keep Headquarters Marine Corps informed of their current mailing address.”

Some things never change.
income beneficiaries will pay an additional amount. The IRMAA, additional amounts, and total Part B premiums for high-income beneficiaries for 2016 are shown in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiaries who file an individual tax return with income:</th>
<th>Beneficiaries who file a joint tax return with income:</th>
<th>Income-related monthly adjustment amount</th>
<th>Total monthly premium amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than or equal to $85,000</td>
<td>Less than or equal to $170,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$121.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater than $85,000 and less than or equal to $107,000</td>
<td>Greater than $170,000 and less than or equal to $214,000</td>
<td>$48.70</td>
<td>$170.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater than $107,000 and less than or equal to $160,000</td>
<td>Greater than $214,000 and less than or equal to $320,000</td>
<td>$121.80</td>
<td>$243.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater than $160,000 and less than or equal to $214,000</td>
<td>Greater than $320,000 and less than or equal to $428,000</td>
<td>$194.90</td>
<td>$316.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater than $214,000</td>
<td>Greater than $428,000</td>
<td>$268</td>
<td>$389.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Premiums for beneficiaries who are married and lived with their spouse at any time during the taxable year, but file a separate return, are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiaries who are married and lived with their spouse at any time during the year, but file a separate tax return from their spouse:</th>
<th>Income-related monthly adjustment amount</th>
<th>Total monthly adjustment amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $85,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$121.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater than $85,000 and less than or equal to $129,000</td>
<td>$194.90</td>
<td>$316.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater than $129,000</td>
<td>$268</td>
<td>$389.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part A Premiums/Deductibles.** *(accompanying table on page 4)*

Medicare Part A covers inpatient hospital, skilled nursing facility, and some home health care services. About 99% of Medicare beneficiaries do not pay a Part A premium since they have at least 40 quarters of Medicare-covered employment. The Medicare Part A annual deductible that beneficiaries pay when admitted to the hospital will be $1,288 in 2016, a small increase from $1,260 in 2015. The Part A deductible covers beneficiaries’ share of costs for the first 60 days of Medicare-covered inpatient hospital care in a benefit period. The daily coinsurance amounts will be $322 for the 61st through 90th day of hospitalization in a benefit period and $644 for lifetime reserve days. For beneficiaries in skilled nursing facilities, the daily coinsurance for days 21 through 100 in a benefit period will be $161 in 2016 ($157.50 in 2015). Enrollees age 65 and over who have fewer than 40 quarters of coverage and certain persons with disabilities pay a monthly premium in order to receive coverage under Part A. Individuals with 30-39 quarters of coverage may buy into Part A at a reduced monthly premium rate, which will be $226 in 2016, a $2 increase from 2015. Those with less than 30 quarters of coverage pay the full premium, which will be $411 a month, a $4 increase from 2015.

Part A Deductible and Coinsurance Amounts for Calendar Years 2015 and 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Cost Sharing</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inpatient hospital deductible</td>
<td>$1260</td>
<td>$1288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily coinsurance for 61st-90th day</td>
<td>$315</td>
<td>$322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily coinsurance for lifetime reserve days</td>
<td>$630</td>
<td>$644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNF coinsurance</td>
<td>$157.50</td>
<td>$161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Deductibles and Coinsurance for 2016

Pentagon Announces Changes to Military Decorations and Awards Program

The Pentagon has made a number of changes to the military decorations and awards program to ensure service members receive appropriate recognition of their actions, according to a recently released statement. The changes come after a long and deliberate review, a defense official told reporters in a Jan. 6 background briefing.

Then Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel initiated the review in 2014 to improve the military awards program by harnessing lessons learned from conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the official said. “He wanted to ensure that we’re appropriately recognizing our service members for their services, actions and sacrifices,” the defense official added. The Pentagon statement points out key changes to the decorations and awards program:

- Implementation of new goals and processes to improve timeliness of the Medal of Honor and other valor awards;
- Standardization of the meaning and use of the Combat Distinguishing Device, or “V” device, as a valor-only device to ensure unambiguous and distinctive recognition for preeminent acts of combat valor;
- Creation of a new combat device, to be represented by a “C” worn on the relevant decoration, to distinctly recognize those service members performing meritoriously under the most arduous combat conditions;
- Introduction of a “remote impacts” device, signified by an “R” to be worn on the relevant decoration, to recognize service members who use remote technology to directly impact combat operations; and
- Adoption of a common definition of Meritorious Service Under Combat Conditions to determine eligibility for personal combat awards.

Service Cross, Silver Star Review.

To “ensure that those service members who performed valorously were recognized at the appropriate level,” the defense official said that Defense Secretary Ash Carter has directed the military departments to review Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, and Silver Star Medal recommendations since Sept. 11, 2001, for actions in Iraq and Afghanistan. There are approximately 1,000 Silver Star and 100 service cross recommendations under review, the official said. While there is a possibility a medal could get upgraded, no service member will have the award downgraded, he said.

The defense official noted “unusual Medal of Honor awards trends,” as one reason for the review. The first seven Medal of Honor awards for actions in Iraq and Afghanistan were posthumous, he said. There may have been a perception that only a fallen service member could receive the nation’s highest military award for valor, he said. After the Defense Department clarified the “risk of life” portion for the Medal of Honor’s criteria in 2010, all 10 recipients have been living, he noted. The review is to ensure that no one deserving of a higher honor has been overlooked, the defense official said. The results of the reviews are due to the Secretary of Defense on Sept. 30, 2017, he said.

The complete list of changes to the military decorations and awards program can be found at www.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Military-Decorations-and-Awards-Review-Results.pdf.
Defense Department Proposes UCMJ Changes

Following a two-year review of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the Defense Department recently forwarded to Congress a legislative proposal outlining a number of reforms. The UCMJ is the statutory framework of the military justice system, according to a news release announcing the proposed changes. The proposal is based on the recommendations of the Military Justice Review Group, which conducted a detailed analysis of each article of the UCMJ, including the historical background of the UCMJ, current practice, and comparison to federal civilian law.

In October 2013, then Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, in response to a request from the senior uniformed leadership, directed the review of the UCMJ and its implementation in the Manual for Courts-Martial, the release said. Hagel also directed the review to consider the recommendations of a separate, congressionally-established panel that examined the systems used to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate adult sexual assault and related offenses in the military. Each of the military services detailed military personnel to serve as members of the Military Justice Review Group. Andrew S. Effron, former chief judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, serves as director of the MJRG.

The department’s proposal is the first comprehensive military justice reform package submitted to Congress by the Defense Department in more than 30 years. The proposed legislation includes 37 statutory additions and substantive amendments to 68 current provisions of the UCMJ. Among the major reforms, the proposed legislation would:

- **Strengthen the structure of the military justice system by:** establishing selection criteria for military judges and mandating tour lengths; authorizing military judges to handle specified legal issues prior to referral of a case to court-martial; establishing the authority for military magistrates to preside over specified pre-referral matters; establishing a military judge-alone special court-martial similar to the judge-alone forum in civilian proceedings, with confinement limited to a maximum of six months and no punitive discharge; requiring issuance of guidance on the disposition of criminal cases similar to the United States Attorneys Manual, tailored to military needs; and mandating additional training for commanders and convening authorities focused on the proper exercise of UCMJ authority;

- **Enhance fairness and efficiency in pretrial and trial procedures by:** facilitating victim input on disposition decisions and providing for public access to court documents and pleadings; expanding the authority to subpoena documents during criminal investigations; replacing the current variable panel (military jury) sizes with a standardized number of panel members (military jurors) and a consistent voting percentage in order to convict in non-capital cases (75%); and requiring learned defense counsel in capital trials and appeals;

- **Modernize military sentencing by:** replacing the current sentencing standard with a system of judicial discretion guided by parameters and criteria; ensuring each offense receives separate consideration for purposes of sentencing to confinement; and providing for effective implementation of sentencing reforms by establishing sentencing by military judges in all non-capital trials;

- **Streamline the post-trial process by:** eliminating redundant paperwork and requiring an entry of judgment by the military judge similar to federal civilian practice to mark the end of a court-martial;

- **Reform military appellate practice by:** providing service members, like their civilian counterparts, with the opportunity to obtain judicial review in all cases; transforming the automatic appeal of cases to the service Courts of Criminal Appeals into an appeal of right in which the accused, upon advice of appellate defense counsel, would determine whether to file an appeal; focusing the appeal on issues raised by the parties and placing the burden to demonstrate factual insufficiency on the accused; establishing standards to review errors in guilty pleas similar to that in federal criminal cases; and permitting the government to appeal a sentence under conditions similar to those applied by federal civilian courts of appeals; and
• **Update the punitive articles by:** proposing new offenses, including Article 93a (Prohibited activities with military recruits and trainee by person in position of special trust); Article 121a (Fraudulent use of credit and debit cards); Article 123 (Offense concerning government computers); and Article 132 (Retaliation); and aligning the definition of “sexual act” in Article 120 with federal civilian criminal law.

The release said that the Defense Department looks forward to working with Congress as lawmakers consider the recommendations.

The full report of the Military Justice Review Group, the legislative proposal forwarded to Congress, and a section-by-section analysis of the legislative proposal is available at [www.dod.gov/dodgc/mjrg.html](http://www.dod.gov/dodgc/mjrg.html).

---

**TRICARE News**

**TRICARE Pharmacy Copays Change February 1**

Military pharmacies and TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery will remain the lowest cost pharmacy option for TRICARE beneficiaries when some TRICARE pharmacy copays change in 2016. On Feb 1, 2016, most copays for prescription drugs at Home Delivery and retail network pharmacies increased slightly.

The 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) required TRICARE to change its prescription copays. All drugs at military pharmacies, and generic drugs through Home Delivery, are still available at no cost to beneficiaries. Copays for brand name drugs through Home Delivery increased from $16 to $20, for up to a 90-day supply. At retail pharmacies, generic drug copays go from $8 to $10, and brand name drug copays go from $20 to $24, for up to a 30-day supply. Copays for non-formulary drugs and for drugs at non-network pharmacies also changed.

Beneficiaries can save up to $208 in 2016 for each brand name prescription drug they switch from retail pharmacy to Home Delivery. Home Delivery offers safe and convenient delivery of your prescription drugs right to your mailbox.

To see the new TRICARE pharmacy copays, learn more about the TRICARE Pharmacy benefit, or move your prescription to Home Delivery, visit [www.tricare.mil/pharmacy](http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacy).

**Specialty Care Referrals**

Many TRICARE Prime beneficiaries receive primary care from providers in military hospitals and clinics. Occasionally, they may need to receive specialty care. When this happens, they must receive a referral from their primary care manager (PCM).

Getting a referral makes sure your regional or overseas contractor authorizes the care before you make an appointment. TRICARE rules require that if the care you need is available at a military hospital or clinic near you, and there is space available, you will be referred there first. Military hospitals and clinics have 90 minutes to accept urgent referrals and two business days to accept referrals for routine care. If your local military hospital or clinic does not accept the referral within that time, you will be referred to a network provider near you.

Your regional contractor will send a letter with the name and location of your specialty provider. The letter will also tell you what care is authorized, the length of time you are authorized to receive that care, and the type and number of visits you are allowed before you need another referral.

Before making an appointment with the specialty care provider, call your regional contractor three to five days after the PCM enters the

---

**The Thrift Savings Plan Separations Code**

You are now retired, but you cannot access your Thrift Savings Account.

Who do you call?

DFAS can help. Your POCs are:

- **Darlena Philpott:** [Darlena.L.Philpott.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Darlena.L.Philpott.civ@mail.mil) (216) 204-4483
- **Derris Lents:** [Derris.L.Lents.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Derris.L.Lents.civ@mail.mil) (216) 204-2016
referral to check the status. Try to take copies of your medical records, x-rays and lab results with you to see the specialist.

If you are overseas and are referred to a host nation provider, be sure to coordinate your care through your overseas contractor.

**TRICARE Cataract Coverage Explained**

Cataract removal is one of the most common operations performed in the United States. According to the National Eye Institute, it also is one of the safest and most effective types of surgery. In about 90% of cases, people who have cataract surgery have better vision afterward. TRICARE covers cataract surgery and related supplies and services.

More specifically, TRICARE covers the standard intraocular lens (IOL), a fixed lens designed to target vision at a single focal point. During cataract surgery, the natural clouded lens is removed and then replaced by an IOL to become a permanent part of your eye. This provides good distance vision but patients typically need glasses for near and intermediate tasks such as reading and computer use. TRICARE also covers one pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses as a prosthetic device after each medically necessary cataract surgery where an IOL is inserted.

If you would like a non-standard IOL instead of a standard monofocal IOL, you will be responsible for the difference in the charges. For more information about your covered vision services, contact your regional contractor or visit the Eye Surgery and Treatment page on the TRICARE website.

**Eye Surgery and Treatment**

Not all eye surgeries are covered. TRICARE covers many eye surgeries and treatments. Generally, this includes services and supplies needed to diagnose and treat an eye illness or injury.

Before you get any surgeries, remember to:

- Check with your regional contractor and
- Get prior authorization.

More specifically, TRICARE covers:

- Phototherapeutic keratectomy (PTK) for corneal dystrophies;
- Surgical procedures and eye exams to correct, treat or diagnose strabismus;
- Corneal transplants or keratoplasty;
- Relaxing keratotomy to relieve astigmatism following a corneal transplant;
- Transscleral thermothermia or laser hyperthermia, with chemotherapy for the treatment of retinoblastoma;
- Express mini-glaucoma shunt to reduce intraocular pressure. This is for treating glaucoma that can’t be controlled with medications;
- Intraocular lenses for loss of human lens function resulting from intraocular surgery, ocular injury, or congenital absence. TRICARE only covers the standard fixed non-accommodating monofocal intraocular lenses;
- Intrastromal Corneal Ring Segments for the treatment of keratoconus. You must meet the following criteria:
  - Unable to achieve adequate vision using lenses or glasses and
  - Corneal transplant is the only remaining option.

TRICARE doesn’t cover:

- Refractive corneal surgery;
- Orthokeratology;
- Orthoptics, also known as visual training, vision therapy, eye exercises, or eye therapy;
- Epikeratophakia for treatment of aphakia and myopia;
- Intraocular lenses for correcting astigmatism and presbyopia. This includes any adjustments, subsequent treatment, services or supplies needed due to the lens surgery.

**Did you know?**

Some military hospitals and clinics may offer vision procedures that are not covered by TRICARE. Contact a military hospital or clinic near you to see what programs are offered.
Advance Care Planning
Excerpts and Tips from the National Institute on Aging

Advance care planning is not just about old age. At any age, a medical crisis could leave someone too ill to make his or her own healthcare decisions. Knowing how you would decide might take some of the burden off family and friends.

Advance care planning involves learning about the types of decisions that might need to be made, considering those decisions ahead of time, and then letting others know about your preferences, often putting them into an advance directive. An advance directive is a legal document that goes into effect only if you are incapacitated and unable to speak for yourself. It also allows you to express your values and desires related to end-of-life care. You might think of an advance directive as a living document—one that you can adjust as your situation changes because of new information or a change in your health.

There are two elements in an advance directive—a living will and a durable power of attorney for health care. There are also other documents that can supplement your advance directive or standalone. Other documents discussing DNR (do not resuscitate) orders, organ and tissue donation, dialysis, and blood transfusions.

A durable power of attorney for health care is a legal document naming a healthcare proxy, someone to make medical decisions for you at times when you might not be able to do so. A proxy can be chosen in addition to or instead of a living will. Having a healthcare proxy helps you plan for situations that cannot be foreseen, like a serious auto accident.

Once you have talked with your doctor and have an idea of the types of decisions that could come up in the future and whom you would like as a proxy, if you want one at all, the next step is to fill out the legal forms detailing your wishes.

Many states have their own advance directive forms. Your local Area Agency on Aging can help you locate the right forms. You can find your area agency phone number by calling the Eldercare Locator at 1-800-677-1116 or going online at www.eldercare.gov.

There are key people who should be told that you have an advance directive. Give copies to your healthcare proxy and alternate proxy. Give your doctor a copy for your medical records. Tell key family members and friends where you keep a copy. If you have to go to the hospital, give staff there a copy to include in your records.

What happens if you have no advance directive or have made no plans and you become unable to speak for yourself? In such cases, the state where you live will assign someone to make medical decisions on your behalf. This will probably be your spouse, your parents if they are available, or your children if they are adults. If you have no family members, the state will choose someone to represent your best interests.

A number of states are developing or starting to use an advance care planning form known as POLST (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) or MOLST (Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment). These forms serve in addition to your advance directive. They make it possible for you to provide more detailed guidance about your medical care preferences. Your doctor will talk with you and/or your family for guidance, but the form is filled out by the doctor or, sometimes, a nurse practitioner or physician’s assistant. Once signed by your doctor, this form has the force of any other medical order. These forms are often printed on brightly colored paper so they are easily found in a medical or hospital file. Check with your state department of health to find out if this form is available where you live.

To read this eight-page article in its entirety, visit https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/publication/advance-care-planning.

Hospice Care and Palliative Care.
Hospice care is intended to provide comfort to you and your family during a life-threatening illness, rather than provide treatments to cure the illness. Palliative care is similar to comfort care in hospice, but it is offered along with any medical treatments you might be receiving for a life-threatening illness, such as chemotherapy for cancer or dialysis for kidney failure. The main goal of both hospice and palliative care is to keep you comfortable. In addition, you can always choose to move from hospice to palliative care if you want to pursue treatments to cure your illness.
January-March 2016

Semper Fidelis Memorandum for Retired Marines

Note: The 2016 schedule for the Evening and Sunset Parades will be published on or about March 1.

During the parade season, evening parades are held every Friday at 8:45 p.m. beginning early May and continuing through the end of August. Seating for the evening parade generally requires a reservation and can be requested online by accessing this website once the dates are made available. There is a general admissions line at each Friday evening parade to fill any unclaimed seats. Seats are released at 8:00 p.m. each Friday evening and are filled on a first come, first-served basis. The sunset parades are held every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. beginning in early June, and will continue through the second Tuesday in August. Parades in August begin at 6:30 p.m. Parades at the Marine Corps War Memorial are “open seating” and reservations are not required. Go to https://www.mbw.usmc.mil/RequestReservation.aspx to request your reservation after March 1, and for more information, go to www.barracks.marines.mil/Parades/GeneralInformation.aspx.

Call the VA at 1-800-827-1000 for the specifics about your eligibility!

Marine Barracks Washington

Note: The 2016 schedule for the Evening and Sunset Parades will be published on or about March 1.

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides an interest and aptitude assessment tool known as CareerScope at no cost to all eligible benefit recipients. CareerScope has been used frequently by veterans to determine the best career path for transition to civilian life. Whether you wish to pursue education and training in a field you already know, or you wish to branch out to other fields that interest you, CareerScope can help. With CareerScope you will be provided with an assessment of your interests and aptitudes, and given recommendations about which careers you may enjoy and be successful doing, and what courses or training programs you should focus on to pursue those careers. To register with the CareerScope Assessment Portal, go to https://va.careerscope.net/evaluees/registration?site_id=1993.

Free Educational and Career Counseling (Chapter 36), which is governed by 38 United States Code (U.S.C.), Section 3697A, Educational and Vocational Counseling, services are provided to transitioning service members who are:

- Within six months before discharge from active duty;
- Within one year following discharge from active duty;
- Current beneficiaries of educational assistance under Chapters 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 1606, 1607; or
- Veterans and qualified dependents who are eligible for and have entitlement to education assistance under Chapters 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 1606, 1607.

“Seating for the evening parade generally requires a reservation...”
**TAPS**

The Marine Corps wishes to extend heartfelt sympathy to the loved ones and friends of our fallen comrades. Because of the Privacy Act, we cannot release addresses of the next of kin. The following list includes the Marine’s name, last grade held that was reported to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, month and year of retirement and month and year of death.

**Note:** In an effort to reduce erroneous listings, Semper Fidelis will only announce deaths that have been confirmed from DFAS. Telephonic reporting of deaths to MMSR-6 are first confirmed before posted in this column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLONEL</th>
<th>Gordon, William H. Oct 71/Nov 15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gaut, Donald L. Jul 81/Jan 16</td>
<td>Haslam, Charles B. Jul 59/Dec 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison, Henry S. Dec 00/Dec 15</td>
<td>Jones, Earnest J. May 74/Dec 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hering, Donald H. Sep 90/Dec 15</td>
<td>Lamb, Theodore E. Aug 80/Jan 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howatt, William J. Apr 70/Nov 15</td>
<td>Linn, Robert F.K. Oct 88/Nov 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mabry, David R. Jun 86/Oct 15</td>
<td>Rainwater, Gerald K. Jan 75/Nov 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiro, Michael E. Jul 76/Nov 15</td>
<td>Sell, James B. Jul 87/Dec 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIEUTENANT COLONEL</td>
<td>Wilkinson, James V. Jul 74/Nov 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bailey III, John C. Nov 00/Dec 15</td>
<td>Wood, Lloyd C. Dec 71/Nov 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birzer, Edward A. Jun 79/Nov 15</td>
<td>Zumstein, Charles E. Jul 76/Nov 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowron, Walter F. Feb 75/Nov 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capwell, George L. Oct 79/Dec 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalrymple, Donald A. Aug 85/Aug 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heideman, Robert W. Sep 85/Nov 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelley, Roy A. Apr 92/Oct 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McLaughlin, C. E. Oct 91/Nov 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nippolt, Robert J. Jan 90/Sep 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oestricher, Philip F. Sep 91/Dec 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olsen, Peter I. Jul 62/Nov 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochford, Thomas F. Aug 70/Jul 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unger, William T. Jul 71/Dec 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAJOR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adams, Billy H. Apr 78/Dec 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bickel III, Raymond R. Jul 83/Mar 13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buck, John A. Sep 67/Jan 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell, James R. Mar 75/Dec 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delabarre, Ronald K. Aug 77/Dec 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lapean, Kenneth M. Oct 93/Nov 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebel, George M. Jul 99/Nov 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parretti, Lawrence Oct 76/Dec 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prosser, Michael F. Jul 89/Dec 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schmidt, Roger W. Jan 96/Dec 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simpson, James F. Jul 78/Nov 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turley, Jerry W. Mar 87/Nov 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPTAIN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolan John E. Jun 55/Nov 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finnie, Richard F. Jun 73/Oct 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## MASTER SERGEANT
- Bowlding, Gregory R. Aug 00/Oct 15
- Conti, Paul Aug 76/Nov 15
- Curto, Vincent A. Sep 68/Nov 15
- Griffin, Allen C. Jan 79/Jun 15
- Hosaka, Eugene T. Mar 73/Dec 15
- Johnston, Roy H. Dec 68/Nov 15
- Kaimi, Leonard F. Mar 71/Dec 15
- Munford Jr., Leo G. Mar 79/Dec 15
- Pearl, Eden M. Sep 14/Dec 15
- Rister, Junir Jul 77/Nov 15
- Shadden, William B. Aug 75/Dec 15
- Shoup, Frank Sep 67/Dec 15
- Sims Jr., Emory D. Sep 76/Nov 15
- Thornburg, Donald R. Jan 79/Jan 15
- York, Henry A. Jan 84/Dec 15

## GUNNERY SERGEANT
- Baker Jr., Edwin D. Feb 85/Jun 15
- Britt, Ronald L. Oct 73/Oct 15
- Broschay, William A. Jul 79/Dec 15
- Burr Jr., James Sep 87/Nov 15
- Cantrell, Leonard C. Dec 70/Dec 15
- Deese, Ronald L. Nov 89/Jan 15
- Gotthardt, Glenn L. Jun 90/Jan 15
- Haley, Donald R. Aug 83/Nov 15
- Hand, Christophe E. Aug 98/Nov 15
- Johnston Jr., Robert G. Aug 70/Aug 15
- Koller, Randy K. Aug 98/Nov 15
- Kravetz, Stanley J. Oct 79/Dec 15
- Martinez, Juan B. Dec 77/Nov 15
- Moore, John A. Jul 74/Nov 15
- Nance, Harold A. Aug 72/Dec 15
- Polischek, John J. Nov 77/Nov 15
- Potter, Robert C. Mar 75/Nov 15
- Russell, Moses L. Jul 75/Nov 15
- Scott Jr., James F. Apr 76/Dec 15
- Sewell, Jerry M. Sep 95/Nov 15
- Smyth Jr., James M. Mar 93/Nov 15
- Stowell, David W. Jul 95/Nov 15
- Taylor, Robert L. Mar 71/Nov 15
- Thomas, Danny L. Nov 09/Nov 15
- Whitlock, Paul C. Jul 73/Nov 15
- Wilkinson, Joe W. Aug 75/Nov 15
- Williams Jr., Elgin C Jul 68/Nov 15
- Yost, Richard L. Nov 89/Jan 16
- Hill, Aubrey J. Jan 79/Dec 15
- Morris, Richard A. Nov 00/Oct 15
- Page, George R. Dec 77/Nov 15
- Patton, Alphonzo L. Apr 71/Dec 15
- Rochelle, H.M. May 60/Dec 15
- Szczerba, H.A. Dec 60/Nov 15

## SEERGEANT
- Cunnius, Theodore Aug 70/Nov 15
- Doggett, Brett D. Sep 91/Oct 14
- Edmonds, Wayne E. Aug 77/Nov 15
- Kantakevicius, John A. Mar 72/Dec 15
- Long, Peter A. Sep 67/Dec 15
- Passmore, Leo H. Sep 66/Dec 15
- Robertson, Delwyn E. Jan 67/Oct 15

## CORPORAL
- Cloer, Phillip E. Aug 68/Oct 15
- Newsom, Randy H. Aug 73/Mar 15
- Piesz, Kenneth W. Jun 71/Nov 15
- Souto, Joseph A. Oct 53/Jan 16

## LANCE CORPORAL
- Dean, James T. Apr 69/Nov 15
- Dillon, George T. Apr 67/Nov 15
- Mosley, Tammy R. Dec 94/Nov 15
- Reynolds, Jason B. Dec 68/Feb 14
- White, Preston H. May 74/Nov 15
- Wymes, Jonathan R. Jun 77/Nov 15

## PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
- Armstrong, M. L. May 59/Dec 15
- Conant, Jack E. Jun 54/Nov 15

---

### HOW TO REPORT AN ADDRESS CHANGE

#### RETIRED MARINES:
Report your address change to DFAS at 1-800-321-1080 or MMSR-6 at 1-800-715-0968. myPay is another option to accomplish this at https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx.

#### ANNUITANTS (SBP RECIPIENTS):
Report your address change to DFAS!

MMSR-6 CANNOT UPDATE ANNUITANT ADDRESS CHANGES! Call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080. Your correct mailing address ensures receipt of this newsletter and any other correspondence from DFAS or HQMC.
**Good Briefs... Snippets about social media**

**Marines TV**

Watch Marines TV at [www.marines.mil/News/MarinesTV.aspx](http://www.marines.mil/News/MarinesTV.aspx) to view short stories on various topics on Afghanistan, aviation, Iraq, the Marine Expeditionary Unit, and more. A good place to start is the March 2015 video under the “Iraq” folder by LtCol Mike Corrado, a country music singer/songwriter who performs for people all around the country. LtCol Corrado serves in New Orleans with Marine Forces Reserve. The video is 4:04 minutes in length.

**The IRS and YouTube**

Identity Theft Video Series Available

Special Series to Help Taxpayers Avoid Pitfalls and Stay Safe Online

In coordination with the state revenue departments and the tax industry, the Internal Revenue Service recently released the first in a series of YouTube video tax tips designed to provide people critical information to help protect their tax and financial data. The videos, part of the continuing Security Summit effort combating identity theft and refund fraud, are part of an ongoing effort to educate taxpayers and provide them tools to stay safe online. To view the video, go to [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLPQTkmnEvg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLPQTkmnEvg).

**Marines Corps Photos**

View images at [www.marines.mil](http://www.marines.mil) and Flickr ([https://www.flickr.com/photos/marine_corps](https://www.flickr.com/photos/marine_corps)) and see what’s happening with the Marine Corps!

[Marine student undergoing the 2nd Marine Division Combat Skills Center Pre-Scout Sniper Course looks through an M40A5 sniper rifle at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Jan. 6, 2016. The 2nd Marine Division Combat Skills Center offers several infantry-based courses to enhance the combat readiness of its Marines.](http://www.marines.mil/News/MarinesTV.aspx)

Photo By: Cpl. Paul S. Martinez
The VA will pay $88.1 million in life insurance dividends in 2016 to about 430,000 veterans who served before 1956 and hold qualifying life insurance policies. Dividends come from the earnings of trust funds that veterans have paid insurance premiums into over the years, and are linked to returns on investments in U.S. government securities. Dividends will be paid to the following who served during:

- **World War II**: National Service Life Insurance policies that begin with the letter “V”
- **World War II**: Reopened Insurance policies that begin with the letters “J,” “JR” or “JS”
- **Korean Conflict**: Veterans Special Life Insurance policies that begin with the letters “RS” or “W”
- **World War I until 1940**: U.S. Government Life Insurance policies that begin with the letter “K”

No action is required on the part of the veteran receiving dividends; the VA will automatically pay the dividend on the anniversary date of the policy by sending it to the insured veteran. Amounts will vary based on the age of the veteran, the type of insurance and the length of time the veteran has had the policy in force. Veterans eligible for the dividends must have had these VA life insurance policies in effect since they left the military and would have received annual notifications about their policies.

Questions? Call the VA at 1-800-669-8477 or send an email to VAnet@va.gov. For more information, visit www.benefits.va.gov/insurance.

---

Vantage Point
Official Blog of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

---

Marine Corps Marathon
127K Like this

**Marine Corps Historic**
Half Marathon
May 16, 2016

**Marine Corps Marathon**
October 30, 2016

---

#Hashtag This!
#Parris Island

PARRIS ISLAND, SC - Staff Sgt. Roger L. Petersen currently serves as a Marine Corps drill instructor with Golf Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. Petersen joined the Marine Corps in June 2001 and became a drill instructor in June 2014. “I became a drill instructor because I wanted to give back to the Marine Corps,” said Petersen, a 32-year-old native of Wichita Falls, Texas. “I have been in for 14 years, and being a drill instructor was one of the only things I haven’t done yet.” About 600 Marine Corps drill instructors shape the approximately 20,000 recruits who come to Parris Island annually into basic United States Marines. Parris Island is home to entry-level enlisted training for 50% of males and 100% of females in the Marine Corps.

---

Twitter Spotlight

MarineCorpsMuseum
@MarineMuseum
17.9K followers

Last year, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, in cooperation with NMMC, broke ground for the 126,000 square feet that will complete the Museum’s circle and tell the Marine Corps’ story from post-Vietnam to the present.

Read about it at www.usmcmuseum.com/Museum Expansion.asp.

---

Photo By: Sgt. Jennifer Schubert
USMC Retired Services Offices

MCAS Yuma Arizona
Tony Steen
(928) 269-3159
Fax: (928) 928-269-3723
anthony.steen@usmc.mil

MCAGCC Twentynine Palms California
Philip C. Cisneros
(760) 830-7550

MCAS Miramar California
(858) 577-4806

MCB Camp Pendleton California
Edward Woodforke
(760) 725-9789
woodforke@usmc-mccs.org

Freddie Darnell
(760) 725-3400
freddie.darnell@usmc.mil

MCLB Barstow California
Patrick Rewerts
(760) 577-6533
patrick.rewerts@usmc.mil

MCRD San Diego California
Ray P. Bromley
(619) 524-5301
retiredmcrdsd@yahoo.com

MCLB Albany Georgia
Raymond Breaux
(229) 639-5278
breauxr@usmc-mccs.org

MCB Kaneohe Bay Hawaii
Jeffrey Esposito
(808) 257-7795
jeffrey.esposito@usmc.mil

MCAS Iwakuni Japan
Gary K. Saiki
011-81-827-79-5762
gks20142000@yahoo.com or
saikigk@usmc-mccs.org

Robert Bugawan
rbugawan@yahoo.com or
robert.bugawan@usmc.mil

MCB Camp SD Butler Okinawa Japan
Ben Garcia
DSN: 315-645-3159, 011-81-611-745-3159
garciab@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org

MCB Camp Lejeune North Carolina
Luis J. Alers-Dejesus
(910) 451-0287, Fax: (910) 451-0677
luis.alers-dejesus@usmc.mil

MCAS Cherry Point North Carolina
(252) 466-5548

MCAS/MCRD South Carolina
(843) 228-4574

MCB Henderson Hall Virginia
Larry Ward
(703) 693-9197
hnhl_rao.fct@usmc.mil

MCB Quantico Virginia
Kimberly Bennett
(703) 784-3351
kimberly.bennett@usmc.mil
Reunions

**Group 16 Naval Enlisted Scientific Education Program** 40th reunion in West Lafayette, IN, Apr. 28 to May 1, 2016. POC: Tom Kane, (703) 624-2833, tkane@ida.org or Dean Bain, (803) 463-1210, deanbain@aol.com.


**LPH/MCS-12 USS INCHON** 10th reunion in Warwick, RI, May 15-19, 2016. POC: David F. Fix, 131 Waypoint Dr., Lancaster, PA 17603-5676, (717) 203-4152, ussinchon@gmail.com or visit www.ussinchon.com.


**Marine Corps Distinguished Shooters Assn.** in Sneads Ferry, NC, April 21-22, 2016. POC: Capt Dave A. Luke Sr., (770) 736-3156, dalukesar@comcast.net.


**1st Bn., 3rd Marines (1/3 Reunion)** in San Antonio, TX, Aug. 23-28, 2016. POC: Don Bumgarner, (562) 897-2437, dbumc13usmc@verizon.net.


**115th OCC/Bravo Co. 81 (Basic School)** in Quantico, VA, May 20-23, 2016. POC: LtCol Steve Emerson, (813) 412-2703, steveemerson@ec.rr.com.
Your Military Identification Card

Two Forms of Identification Are Now Required:
To replace or renew your military ID card, two forms of identification are required:

1. A VALID PHOTO ID. Acceptable photo identification includes a driver’s license, military ID card, passport or permanent resident alien card. All photo IDs must be current; expired photo IDs are not accepted.

2. A SECONDARY ID. A secondary ID may include one of the photo IDs listed above or a Social Security card (not a Medicare card), a voter registration card, birth certificate, or student ID if you are a college student. To avoid delays, call your nearest ID card center for hours of operation and availability.

Military ID Cards for Family Members:
Indefinite military ID cards are now issued to eligible family members who are 75 or older.

The 2007 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the issuance of indefinite military ID cards for incapacitated dependent children over 21. To qualify for an indefinite ID card, a determination of permanent incapacitation must be made by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and a current financial dependency determination (over 50%) is required. A financial redetermination will also be required every four years.

Dependent parents and/or parents-in-law over 75, with permanent military ID cards will also require a financial redetermination every four years.

Full-time students over 21, may be eligible for military ID card benefits until 23 provided they are enrolled full-time in a college or university and are dependent on the member for over 50% of their financial support. It is the service member’s responsibility to ensure eligible family members are updated in DEERS and to notify DEERS of any changes in eligibility. For more information, call MMSR-6 at 1-800-336-4649 or (703) 784-9310.

The Retired Marine’s Military ID Card:
When a military service member retires, the ID card issued will have an expiration date on the front and back, coinciding with his/her 65th birthday, which is one day before the Medicare eligibility begin date. ID cards will be replaced if they are lost, stolen, or damaged; they will also be replaced for a name change due to marriage, divorce, or to replace an older version of the ID card. If applicable, divorce decrees and/or marriage licenses may be required. A retired member’s ID card may also be replaced when turning 65 and enrolling in Medicare Part B. With Medicare Part B enrollment, a retired Marine is automatically enrolled in TRICARE for Life, which will require updating the medical eligibility dates on the back of the ID card. If the dates on the back of your ID card have expired, replace the ID card (and have the Medicare Part B card with you when updating the military ID card).

Eligibility for a Military ID Card By Mail
If you are requesting to have a military identification card by mail, you must have a notary’s signature on the back of the photograph. According to Air Force Instruction 36-3026 (17 June 2009):

PORTRAIT-STYLE PHOTOGRAPHS, 8X10 OR 5X7, REQUIRE SIGNATURE NOTARIZATION ON THE BACK AND INCLUDE WEIGHT, HEIGHT, EYE COLOR, AND HAIR COLOR.

You must live more than 300 miles from a military ID card center. Include a statement why you are unable to travel. Submit a copy of your current military ID card (front and back), a photocopy of a second form of ID (i.e., driver’s license, birth certificate, or Social Security card), and a statement addressing why you are unable to travel to an ID card center to HQMC (MMSR-6), 3280 Russell Road, Quantico, VA 22134-5103. Include your contact information!

ID CARD SITE (RAPIDS) LOCATOR: http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl
Steps to Take When an Annuitant Dies

ELIGIBILITY FOR SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN ANNUITY PAY ENDS WITH THE DEATH OF THE ANNUITANT (BENEFICIARY)

Prompt reporting of a deceased military annuitant’s death can help avoid delay and possible financial hardship to surviving family members or executors, who will be required to return any unearned payments of the decedent’s annuity pay. Follow these steps to report the death of an annuitant:

1. If the survivor is an SBP annuitant, call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080 to report the death and stop annuity pay.
2. Mail or fax a copy of the annuitant’s death certificate to:

   **DFAS - U.S. MILITARY ANNUITANT PAY**
   P.O. Box 7131; London, KY 40742-7131
   Fax: 1-800 982-8459

3. Inform any financial institutions receiving payments about the death of the annuitant (Provide a copy of the death certificate when it becomes available).
4. If applicable, contact the following agencies/departments immediately to report the death:
   - **Social Security Administration:** 1-800-772-1213
     [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)
   - **Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System:** 1-800-538-9552
   - **Department of Veterans Affairs:** 1-800-827-1000
     (annuitants in receipt of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation): [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possible sources of annuitant payments may include:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DFAS:</strong> 1-800-321-1080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Security:</strong> 1-800-772-1213</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How to Correct Your Military Record

If you believe you are the victim of an error or injustice which affects your military record, you may apply for a Correction of Military Records by completing and submitting a [DD Form 149, Application for Correction of Military Record](http://www.dfas.mil). Examples of correction include: upgraded discharge, promotions, retired pay, household goods, pay date change, bonus, and MGIB programs. DFAS pays military members when the Board for Corrections of Naval Records (BCNR) rules in their favor. If you received a decision from the BCNR and you do not agree with it, write the Board and explain your reasoning. Reference the appropriate address on page 2 of the DD Form 149. If you would like to check the status of your request contact the BCNR directly at (703) 614-1817 (Navy/Marine Corps). If you believe DFAS paid you incorrectly for your Correction of Record, provide written documentation with a handwritten signature explaining why you are protesting the amount to:

**DFAS-IN**
Dept. 3300, Attn: COR/Claims
8899 East 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46249-3300
DFAS Inquiry Line: (317) 212-6167
(Hours: 8:30 a.m to 3:30 p.m, EST)
Steps to Take When a Retired Marine Dies

1. **REPORT THE DEATH TO DFAS at 1-888-332-7411 to stop retirement pay to avoid indebtedness.** If the retired Marine was receiving pay from another source due to a disability from the VA or civil service retirement from the Office of Personnel Management, contact that agency to return the payment. If you fail to do this, you will have to repay it later. You may also report the death online at [www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/forms.html](http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/forms.html). Additional information from DFAS is available at [www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/Retiree-death.html](http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/Retiree-death.html).

   **NOTE:** DFAS will forward a confirmed death listing to Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (MMSR-6) for inclusion in an upcoming issue of this newsletter for the Taps column.

2. **REPORT SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN ELECTION, if applicable.** Designated annuitants will receive notification from DFAS if the deceased retired Marine elected SBP. If you are uncertain of whether an election was made, call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080.

3. **UPDATE YOUR MILITARY ID CARD.** Your status has changed, and as the survivor of a deceased Marine, your ID card must be updated to reflect it due to the Marine’s death. Access your nearest ID site at [www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl) or call HQMC (MMSR-6) at 1-800-336-4649 or (703) 784-9310 to obtain the three sites closest to you.

4. **NOTIFY THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION at 1-800-SSA-1213** ([www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)) to apply for the $255 death benefit, if applicable.

5. **CONTACT THE VA at 1-800-827-1000 FOR BURIAL AND OTHER VA BENEFITS, such as VA disability payments.** While the VA does not provide burial benefits for annuitants, the annuitant may be eligible for burial in a military cemetery. A copy of the sponsor’s DD 214 is required. Visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) for more information.

6. **CONTACT THE U.S. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL at 1-888-767-6738 or (202) 606-0500 if the sponsor was receiving civil service pay.**

---

**ADDITIONAL AGENCIES PROVIDING AID AND ASSISTANCE TO SURVIVING SPOUSES**

- Arlington National Cemetery: (703) 607-8000
- Military Funeral Honors: 1-866-826-3628 or (703) 432-9524
- Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society: (703) 696-4904, [www.nmcrs.org](http://www.nmcrs.org)
- Society of Military Widows: 1-800-842-3451, [www.militarywidows.org/home.aspx](http://www.militarywidows.org/home.aspx)
- Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors: 1-800-959-8277, [www.taps.org](http://www.taps.org)

**SOME THINGS YOU WILL NEED TO DO:**

- Gather important documents for claims processing (e.g., birth certificate, will, etc.)
- Begin to make funeral and burial arrangements
- Start claim process for applicable benefits (e.g, SBP, VA life insurance, Social Security)
- Determine immediate and short-term financial needs and income sources
- Arrange for help with legal affairs of the deceased
- Notify joint account agencies (e.g., credit cards, banks, auto registration home/auto insurance)
- Review survivor’s own legal documents for possible revision
- Obtain multiple certified death certificates (6-12 copies)
Defense Finance and Accounting Service  
2016 Retiree and Annuitant Pay Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENTITLEMENT MONTH</th>
<th>RETIREE PAYMENT DATE</th>
<th>ANNUITANT PAYMENT DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 2016</td>
<td>Tues., March 1, 2016</td>
<td>Fri., April 1, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2016</td>
<td>Fri., April 1, 2016</td>
<td>Fri., April 1, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2016</td>
<td>Fri., Apr. 29, 2016</td>
<td>Fri., April 1, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2016</td>
<td>Wed., June 1, 2016</td>
<td>Fri., July 1, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2016</td>
<td>Fri., July 1, 2016</td>
<td>Fri., July 1, 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DFAS retired pay dates are scheduled for the first non-holiday weekday of each month.

Restricted Open Season for the Survivor Benefit Plan

DFAS recently notified retired service members who once elected former spouse coverage, which is now discontinued. In part, the letter states:

“You may be eligible to elect coverage for a current spouse during this open season period if before November 25, 2015, you had a former spouse beneficiary under the SBP who died before that date and if you were on November 25, 2015, married to a subsequent spouse.

You may DISREGARD this notice if you are not currently married or if your former spouse coverage for SBP discontinued for any reason other than the death of your covered former spouse.”

This targeted mailing was sent to retired Marines who once elected this form of coverage. The option to cover a current spouse during this open season will run through November 24, 2016.

If you did not receive a mailing from DFAS and this applies to you, call the DFAS customer service representatives at 1-800-321-1080 or (216) 522-5955, between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., EST, Monday through Friday. You may also write them at:

DFAS  
Retired and Annuity Pay  
P.O. Box 7130  
London, KY 40742
2016 SECRETARY OF THE NAVY Retiree Council

VICE ADMIRAL Nanette DeRenzi, USN (Ret), Co-Chair
nmderenzi@comcast.net

SGTMAJ William Whaley, USMC (Ret), Co-Chair
william.i.whaley@usmc.mil

RETIREE MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Mission: To address health care benefit issues of concern to Navy and Marine Corps retirees and raise these issues, along with recommended solutions, to the highest levels in the chain of command.

MSGT John Veneziano, USMC (Ret)
San Diego, CA/jveneziano@san.rr.com

YNC Eric Wenzel, USN (Ret)
usnpo@ewenzel.us

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Mission: To address issues affecting any facet of retiree compensation, identify inequities and raise them to the appropriate level of Navy/DoD with specific recommendations to ensure retiree compensation is administered in a fair and equitable manner.

COL Fred Mahady Jr. USMC (Ret)
San Diego, CA/fmahady@cox.net

LTCOL Valerie Simon, USMC (Ret)
Boulder City, NV/val-hawk@hotmail.com

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Mission: To continuously improve communications with the Navy/Marine Corps retiree communities by more effective use of all mediums, from traditional print and broadcasting to the latest cutting-edge technologies, with special continuing emphasis on establishing life long, reliable communications paths (email for life, universally accessible web pages, etc).

HMCS Raymond Applewhite, USN (Ret)
Jacksonville, NC/raymond.applewhite@med.navy.mil

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Mission: To promote greater retiree volunteerism, encourage retirees to mentor active-duty Sailors and Marines, to eliminate bureaucratic barriers to such healthy, beneficial activities and to respond to specific recommendations, issues, and concerns of Navy and Marine Corps retirees.

CAPT Charles Martin Menez, USN (Ret)
(Committee Chair)
Alexandria, VA/MMenez1981@Kellog.Northwestern.edu

SGTMAJ Juan Williams, USMC (Ret)
Ewa Beach, HI/jwilliams@hingyca.org

The 2016 Secretary of the Navy’s Retiree Council is tentatively scheduled to hold its annual meeting in Washington, DC on 15-19 August 2016.

NEW SECNAV MEMBERS!

NAVY

CDR Byrd Thibodaux
CDR Ronald Ignelzi
CAPT Edwin Burdick
ETCS (SW) Ricky Farris

No new Marine Corps members at this time.
Inns of the Corps

MCAS Yuma: Dos Rios Inn
(928) 269-2262, Fax: (928) 269-6639

MCLB Barstow: Oasis Lodge
(760) 577-6418, Fax: (760) 577-6542

MCB Camp Pendleton: Ward Lodging
(760) 725-2134/2313, Fax: (760) 725-5609

MCB Camp Pendleton: South Mesa Lodge
Reservations: (760) 763-7805/7806/7807
Fax: (760) 237-3559

MCAS Miramar: Miramar Inn
(858) 271-7111, Fax: (858) 628-9466
Reservations: 1-800-628-9466

MCAGCC Twentynine Palms:
Sleepy Tortoise Inn
(760) 830-6583, Fax: (760) 237-3559

MCB Hawaii: Lodge at Kaneohe Bay
(808) 254-2806, Fax: (808) 356-4506

MCAS Iwakuni: Monzen and Nishiki Lodges
011-81-611-753-3221

MCB Camp S.D. Butler: WestPac Lodge
011-81-611-745-2455

MCB Camp Lejeune: Hospitality Inn
(910) 451-3041, Fax: (910) 451-0360

MCRD Parris Island: The Osprey Inn
(843) 228-2744 (primarily for personnel on TAD)

MCRD San Diego: Devil Dog Inn
(619) 524-4401, www.mcrdsd-billeting.org

MCAS Beaufort: De Treville House
(843) 522-1663, Fax: (843) 522-1663

MCB Quantico: Crossroads Inn
(703) 628-9466, Fax: (703) 628-9466
Reservations: 1-800-237-3559

Read more about it at http://innsforthecorps.com/index.html.

THE MARINE CORPS JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS’ TRAINING CORPS IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN TO SERVE AS INSTRUCTORS AT VARIOUS HIGH SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. MARINES SELECTED TO SERVE IN THESE BILLETS TEACH MCJROTC CADETS DISCIPLINE, SELF-CONFIDENCE, AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS REQUIRED TO SUCCESSFULLY PREPARE THEM TO MEET FUTURE CHALLENGES. INSTRUCTORS RECEIVE A STIPEND FROM THE MARINE CORPS AND THE RESPECTIVE SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT AS A MINIMUM, WHEN ADDED TO RETIREMENT PAY, CAN EQUAL FULL MILITARY PAY AND ALLOWANCES, MCJROTC INSTRUCTORS MUST BE CERTIFIED BY THE COMMANDING GENERAL, TRAINING AND EDUCATION COMMAND; QUANTICO, VIRGINIA.


SEMPER FIDELIS
DISCLAIMER

Some of the information compiled for Semper Fidelis comes from other sources to include Subject Matter Experts in their respective fields (e.g., DFAS, VA, and TRICARE). Content was current at the time this publication went to press; any delays in mailing may be due to unforeseen circumstances. Note: Semper Fidelis is posted online before it is mailed to readers. Go to https://www.manpower.usmc.mil and select “Semper Fidelis Online.” Semper Fidelis accepts unsolicited material for regular columns, such as the Reunions column, but reserve the right to reject any unsolicited material deemed inappropriate or illegible for publication.

Semper Fidelis is published quarterly (based on funding availability) to inform retired Marines and their family members about their rights, benefits, and privileges. Items in this memorandum do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Marine Corps or the Department of Defense.

Report any errors to the Editor at tanya.ramey@usmc.mil or 1-800-336-4649.
AMC PASSENGER TERMINAL:  
www.amc.af.mil/amctravel

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY: (703) 607-8000  
www.arlingtoncemetery.mil

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOMES (GULFPORT):  
Gulfport, MS: (228) 897-4418  
https://www.afrh.gov/gulfport-residents

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOMES (WASHINGTON):  
Washington, DC: (202) 541-7501  
https://www.afrh.gov/washington-residents

ARMED FORCES RECREATION CENTERS:  
www.armymwr.com/travel/recreationcenters/  
• Edelweiss Lodge and Resort (Germany):  
  (011-49) 8821-9440  
• Hale Koa Hotel (Hawaii): 1-800-367-6027

AWARDS:  
Marines who have been discharged, separated or retired before Dec. 31, 1998:  
Navy Personnel Command (PERS-312B)  
1 Archives Dr., St. Louis, MO 63138

Marines who have been discharged, separated or retired after Jan. 1, 1999:  
Commandant of the Marine Corps (MMMA)  
2008 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134  
(703) 784-9206

BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS:  
701 S. Courthouse Rd., Bldg. 12, Suite 1001  
Arlington, VA 22204-2490  
(703) 604-6884/6885; Fax: (703) 604-3437  

CAMP LEJEUNE NOTIFICATION REGISTRY:  
https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater

COLD WAR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM:  
Attn: AHRC-PDP-A, Dept. 480, USAHRC  
1600 Spearhead Division Ave.  
Ft. Knox, KY 40122-5408  
Fax: 1-800-723-9262 or (502) 613-9510

https://www.hrc.army.mil  
(Type “Cold War Certificate” in the search box)

COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION:  
SECNAV CRSC Board  
720 Kennaon St. SE, Ste. 309; Washington, DC 20374-5023  
1-877-366-2772, Fax: (202) 685-6610  
DON_CRSC@navy.mil  
www.public.navy.mil/asnmra/corb/CRSCB

DD 214s (Marines who have been discharged, separated, or retired before Dec. 31, 1998):  
National Personnel Records Center  
1 Archives Dr., St. Louis, MO 63138  
(314) 801-0800; Fax: (314) 801-9195  
MPR.center@nara.gov; www.archives.gov/st-louis

Marines discharged/retired/separated after Jan. 1, 1999:  
Commandant of the Marine Corps (MMRP)  
2008 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134-5030  
1-800-268-3710, (703) 784-3921

DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY: www.commissaries.com

DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE:  
U.S. and CONUS: (216) 522-5955, Fax: 1-800-469-6559

DFAS Special Compensation for the Severely Disabled:  
P.O. Box 998011; Cleveland, OH 44199-8011  
(216) 522-6170

E-BENEFITS: https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/  
appmanager/eb/veterans

EQUIPMENT:  
Marine Corps Association  
715 Broadway St., Quantico, VA 22134  
1-866-622-1775, ext. 100, Fax: (703) 640-0162  
mca@mca-marines.org

Leatherneck Magazine  
1-800-336-0291, ext. 115; Fax: (703) 640-0823  
leatherneck@mca-marines.org

Marine Corps Gazette  
1-800-336-0291, ext. 144; Fax: (703) 630-9147  
gazette@mca-marines.org
MARINE CORPS BARRACKS:
8th and I, Washington, DC; [www.barracks.marinemili](http://www.barracks.marinemili)

MARINE CORPS EDUCATION COMMAND:
Marine Corps University, History Division
3078 Upshur Ave., Quantico, VA 22134
(703) 432-4874; [www.history.usmc.mil](http://www.history.usmc.mil)

MARINE CORPS JUNIOR ROTC TECOM (C 46 JR):
1019 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134-5001
(703) 784-3706, [www.mcjrote.org](http://www.mcjrote.org)

MARINE CORPS RECORDS CORRESPONDENCE (MMSB-12):
2008 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134-5030
1-800-268-3710, (703) 784-3930/4646/5616

MCCS COMMUNITY SERVICES: [www.usmc-mccs.org](http://www.usmc-mccs.org)

MEDICAL RECORDS: Marines who have been discharged/separated/retired May 1, 1994 or later:
VA Records Management Center
P.O. Box 5020; St. Louis, MO 63115-8950
1-888-533-4558; Fax: (314) 538-4571

Marines who have been discharged/separated/retired before May 1, 1994 must contact NPRC


N

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS:
18900 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Triangle, VA 22172
1-877-653-1775, [www.usmcmuseum.org](http://www.usmcmuseum.org)

NAVY LODGE WORLDWIDE RESERVATIONS CENTER:
1-800-NAVY-INN, [www.navy-lodge.com](http://www.navy-lodge.com)

Q

QUANTICO NATIONAL CEMETARY: (703) 221-2183

S

SISTER SERVICE RETIREE PUBLICATIONS:
- Army Echoes: [https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes](https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes)
- Coast Guard Evening Colors: [www.uscg.mil/ppc/retnews](http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/retnews)
- Navy Shift Colors: [www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil) (Click “Links” and “Shift Colors”)

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION: 1-800-772-1213
[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN:
[www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/provide/sbp.html](http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/provide/sbp.html)

T

TRICARE PHARMACY PROGRAM: 1-877-363-6337
TRICARE MAIL ORDER PHARMACY EXPRESS SCRIPTS: 1-866-363-8667
TRICARE RETAIL PHARMACY: 1-877-363-1303
TRICARE FOR LIFE/DUAL ELIGIBLES: 1-866-773-0404
TRICARE RETIREE DENTAL PLAN DELTA DENTAL:
1-888-838-8737, [www.trdp.org](http://www.trdp.org)
TRICARE DENTAL PROGRAM UNITED OCONUS:
1-888-475-0486
TRICARE ONLINE: 1-800-538-9552
[www.tricareonline.com](http://www.tricareonline.com)
TRICARE REGIONAL:
- North: 1-877-874-2273
- South: 1-800-444-5445
- West: 1-877-988-9378
- Overseas (to include Pacific, Latin America, Canada, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Europe):
  1-888-777-8343

U

UNIFORM SERVICE CENTER: 1-800-368-4088
Fax your DD 214 to 1-800-551-6289 before placing your order

V

VA: 1-800-827-1000, [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)
VA SGLI/VGLI: 1-800-419-1473
VA STATUS OF HEADSTONES AND MARKERS:
1-800-697-6947
OTHER VA LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAMS:
1-800-669-8477, [www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov)
Access your newsletter online at https://www.manpower.usmc.mil
Click on “Semper Fidelis Online”

Separation and Retirement Branch (MMSR)

WHO TO CONTACT:

MMSR-2: (703) 784-9324/25/26
Active Duty Separation and Retirement
- Enlisted: smb.manpower.mmsr2e@usmc.mil
- Officer: smb.manpower.usmc.mmsr2o@usmc.mil
- Separation: smb.manpower.mmsr3@usmc.mil

MMSR-4: (703) 784-9308/09
Disability Separation, Retirement and Limited Duty
- smb.manpower.mmsr4@usmc.mil

MMSR-5: (703) 784-9306/07
Inactive Reserve Separation and Retirement
- smb.manpower.mmsr5@usmc.mil

MMSR-6: (703) 784-9311, 1-800-336-4649; Fax: (703) 784-9834
Retired Services and Pay
- Semper Fidelis
- Identification Cards
- Survivor Benefit Plan
- Address Changes (Note: Anuitants must call DFAS)
- smb.manpower.mmsr6@usmc.mil
- smb.manpower.mmsr7@usmc.mil